

# THE AUSTRALIAN

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SYDNEY, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1908.

## SUMMARY.

Latest reports show that the deaths from the earthquake in Sicily and Calabria number between 20,000 and 25,000.

The three provinces of Calabria are all devastated. Messina is practically destroyed, and there is ruin everywhere in the provinces.

Refugees give appalling accounts of the catastrophe. They say that Dante's description of the Inferno gives a very fair idea of the scenes at Messina.

All the finest palaces, churches, theatres, and villas are heaps of ruins, covering decomposing bodies.

It is stated that half the population of Messina perished in the earthquake.

Lighthouses along the devastated coast are unworkable, and navigation is impossible at night.

The panic throughout Calabria is indescribable. Thousands of people remained all day in the streets, filling the air with lamentations, prayers, and imprecations.

The earthquake has altered the aspect of the Straits of Messina and has changed the coastline.

The majority of the villages bordering the Straits of Messina have been destroyed.

All Italy is mourning for her dead. The exchanges and the theatres are closed.

A great national effort is being made to send succour to the devastated provinces.

A movement is being organized to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the birth of Bishop Sheehan in London.

A fall of three inches almost stopped the horse omnibus traffic in Great Britain.

Exceptionally severe frosts have occurred in the provinces. Several people have been frozen to death.

As the Ruff, the Francisco Rod, convicted of accepting bribes and blackmail, has been sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment.

Mr. Hamilton Heston, M.P., is agitating for penny postage between Great Britain and Germany.

General Torres, with 500 followers, resisted the landing of officials sent by General Gomez at Macaca, Venezuela, from the gunboat Mirador.

After four hours' fighting the gunboat withdrew, but General Torres fled, declaring that the odds were too heavy to further resist.

Lady Russell, widow of Sir P. N. Russell, presents to the English and Scotch Bishops of the Sydney University a replica of Mr. B. McKenna's group of "Industry."

The Argentine Bishop Shamahian has been unanimously elected to the Argentine episcopate.

The Northern Union committee favours sending a football team to Australia in 1909, but is awaiting an answer from New Zealand.

The Prime Minister sent a message of sympathy to the Italian Consul in Melbourne in connection with the earthquake in Italy and Sicily.

The earthquake was recorded on the seismograph at Perth Observatory. There appear to have been two periods of maximum intensity.

Sir Albert Gould, President of L. Le Neve, is a passenger for England by the Omrah, which leaves Adelaide tomorrow.

The Prime Minister will attend the Highland Gathering in Sydney to-morrow, and return by train to Melbourne in the evening.

Mr. Wade is expected to arrive in Melbourne on his return from Western Australia on January 6.

He will be entertained by the members of the Federal Ministry at the Hotel Cecil.

An early settlement of the industrial difficulty at Broken Hill does not seem probable.

Ordinary business is at a standstill. The worst is expected, and preparations are being made accordingly.

The proprietors of the Port Pirie are reported to be as determined as the Broken Hill miners.

The fight against the Proprietary virtually started last night, with the result that the Government has appointed a picket committee.

The Chief Secretary states that the Government would take action in the event of a further contact between Broken Hill and Port Pirie.

Mr. Wood says it is imperative to prevent so-called boxing clubs developing into a constant state of disorder.

An attempt was made to devise some alteration of the law in regard to glove contests.

Bush fires have again broken out in the Gundagai district, and 5000 acres have been devastated.

The fire is four miles wide, and is travelling fast in the direction of Coolah and Gundagai.

Hundreds of men are out saving stock and doing all that is possible to prevent the spread of the fire.

The Broken Hill City Council has agreed to petition the Minister to have the water system in municipalities abolished.

Herbert Poppleton, a patient in Callan Park Asylum, who killed an attendant named Burns, died yesterday.

## FARMER AND COMPANY.

With our Patrons, one and all, a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

We close at 5 p.m. To-day. Resuming Saturday, 8 a.m.

### FARMER'S "ROYAL" LINES.

There is perhaps no portion of the household goods which the housewife gives more attention than the Table Linens. In fact, it is an infallible sign of a good housewife when her linens are well furnished.

Quality counts in linens more than in anything, and Farmer's reputation in this respect is of the highest. You want Quality, allied with Sterling Value in Linens, visit Farmer's.

### LINEN TABLE DAMASK.

SPECIAL PURCHASE OF ALL LINEN TABLE DAMASK.

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## GLOVE CONTESTS.

## NEUTRALITY TO BE PUT DOWN.

## SCIENTIFIC BOXING ONLY ALLOWED.

## A MINISTERIAL MATTER.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO THE POLICE.

## THE CHIEF SECRETARY, MR. W. H. WOOD, upon

## being asked yesterday if, in the event of John

## Burns coming to terms with the Government

## for another glove contest, the Government

## would take any action, stated that there

## would be no action on the part of the Government

## in such a case. He said that the Government

## would not take any action, but that the

## police would be instructed to take any

## action which might be necessary in the

## event of a contest. He said that the

## police would be instructed to take any

## action which might be necessary in the

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## police would be instructed to take any

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## event of a contest. He said that the

## ask him, he will play me a game of billiards,

## or he will play me a game of pool, or he

## will play me a game of tennis, or he will

## play me a game of football, or he will

## play me a game of basketball, or he will

## play me a game of baseball, or he will

## play me a game of hockey, or he will

## play me a game of ice hockey, or he will

## play me a game of figure skating, or he will

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## VICTORIAN POLITICS.

## THE POSITION OF LEADER.

## THREE NAMES MENTIONED.

## MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

## Revised returns from the Upper Goulburn

## electorate show that the Minister for Lands,

## Mr. T. Hunt, has been defeated by Mr. G.

## Cookson, who, however, is classed as a

## minority member of the Government.

## The latest figures are: G. A. Cookson (M.P.),

## 1099; T. Hunt (M.P.), 1027. Only two small

## returns are to come, but the result cannot be

## considered final.

## New members elected are: G. A. Cookson,

## M. Cullen, M. Hannan, A. N. McKinnon, J.

## M. MacLachlan, W. Plain, A. Rogers, and J.

## Duffus. Mr. Gurr, T. Hunt, H. P. Keogh, J. P.

## Kirkton, and E. Wilkins.

## The Premier stated to-day that he did not

## intend to resign until he had called a meet-

## ing next week of all members who could be

## called Ministerial supporters. This means

## all anti-socialists, with the exception of about

## a score of men who are the bitter enemies of

## the Ministry. The Premier further stated that

## he intended to keep absolutely to the agree-

## ment to submit the question of leadership

## to the party. If he were not chosen as Pre-

## mier, he would support the Government as a

## private member.

## A meeting of the Cabinet will be held to-mor-

## row, and a meeting of the Ministerial party

## will be held to consider the political situa-

## tion. The House meets on Thursday. Very

## few members were in town to-day, but prob-

## ably all will be in Melbourne by Tuesday. It

## is believed that practically the whole of the

## anti-socialists will be absent from the meet-

## ing of the Ministerial party. Mr. Swinburne

## said to-night that every member who is not

## a strong supporter of the Government must

## be asked to resign. He said that the Govern-

## ment would not accept of a resignation unless

## it was accompanied by a statement of the

## member's reasons for resigning. He said that

## the Government would not accept of a resig-

## nation unless it was accompanied by a state-

## ment of the member's reasons for resigning.

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## THE SYDNEY FIRE RISKS.

## PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE'S

## REPORT.

## THE SELECT COMMITTEE WHICH INQUIRED INTO

## the fire risks and the method of preven-

## tion (presided over by Mr. G. A. Cookson),

## has prepared its report.

## The committee, which consisted of 14 members,

## found that "as a consequence of the

## legislation of the city and the

## subsequent action of the Government, the

## degree of fire risk in the city has been

## greatly reduced, and the fire risk in the

## city is now a very small one. The

## committee further found that the

## fire risk in the city is now a very small

## one, and that the fire risk in the city

## is now a very small one. The committee

## further found that the fire risk in the

## city is now a very small one, and that

## the fire risk in the city is now a very

## small one. The committee further found

## that the fire risk in the city is now a

## very small one, and that the fire risk

## in the city is now a very small one.







SPORTING.

THE TURF.

By his victory in the Dudley Handicap at Randwick yesterday, Mr. J. W. Moore (trainer) secured a big penalty for Tattersall's Cup, which brings his weight up to that for the two miles race.

Up to 4 p.m. of today's racing and jockeys' strikes at the Warwick Farm January meeting, it can be obtained from the Club Office at Pitt-street.

The weights for the minor handicaps on the programme for the concluding day of Tattersall's Club annual meeting are promised this afternoon.

Good entries have been received for the trotting meeting to be held by the Kurrumbidgee Trotting Club on Saturday, January 1st, at the Kurrumbidgee race track.

Crabs include some good performers as Ribbons, Mummel Childs, Lucia, etc. Metropolitan visitors can leave the city by the train starting at 9 a.m.

Lady Agnes, who won the Railway Stakes yesterday at the W.A.T.C. annual meeting, Perth, was bred at Warwick Farm by Mr. E. A. Oatley, and is by Niagara from Mr. J. Kelly.

Pony and gallop racing takes place at Rosebery on Saturday night.

The Sydney last night to hand left England. On the second day of the Doncaster New Year Meeting, the Sydney last night to hand left England.

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TATTERSALL'S CLUB.

LORD BEAUCHAMPEL WINS CAR RINGTON STAKES.

SEAGUARDS THE JUVENILE STAKES.

WELCOME TRIST THE DUDLEY HANDICAP.

NORTHERN STAKES C.A.

INTERSTATE JUNIOR CRICKET.

CYCLING AND MOTORING.

PIONEER MOTOR CYCLE CLUB.

THE GRAND PRIX COURSE.

WESTRALIA WHEEL MEETING.

KALGOORLIE WEDNESDAY.

WILSON'S WHEEL MEETING.

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THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD.

INTERSTATE CRICKET.

VICTORIA V SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

DECEMBER EXAMINATIONS.

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY.

FACULTY OF ARTS.

FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION.

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